

WHII.13 The Cold War Notes

WHII 13a- The End of WWII and the Beginning of the Cold War

Near the end of WWII, Roosevelt from the US, Churchill from Great Britain, and Stalin from the USSR met at the Yalta Conference to decide what to do after WWII. They made many important decisions. One reason that WWII started was that everyone ignored the League of Nations. This was because it didn't have an army and because the U.S. didn't join. At Yalta they decided to form the United Nations to help keep future peace. Unlike the League of Nations, the US joined and the UN could raise an army from its members to enforce its decisions.

At Yalta, they also decided to divide up Germany into 4 zones. The U.S., France, Great Britain, and USSR would each control one zone. The goal was to fix up the country and then unite the four zones into one new country. Other places were also divided, such as some of Japan's colonies. For example, Korea was divided on the 38th parallel. The USSR controlled the North and the US controlled the South.

After WWII, the US and the USSR were the two most powerful countries by far. In fact they were nicknamed "Superpowers". These two countries were very different. The USSR was communist. They became this way after Lenin led a revolution during WWI that put Czar Nicholas II in "J.A.I.L.". Their ideas were based on Marx and Engels, who wrote *The Communist Manifesto*. The USA had a democracy (where people vote) and followed capitalism—the economic theory of Adam Smith (Wealth of Nations).

The USSR and US became enemies. Roughly 1/2 the world was on the side of the US and 1/2 was on the side of the USSR. The countries on the side of the US formed an alliance called NATO and the countries on the side of the USSR formed an alliance called the Warsaw Pact. The countries on the USSR's side were referred to as Soviet satellites. In order to help make sure countries joined the US's side, the US gave billions of dollars to Western Europe in what was called the Marshall Plan, named after George C. Marshall.

Although the USSR and US were enemies, they never fought each other. Instead they had what is called a Cold War. This lasted from 1945-1989. The two countries did everything possible to stop each other but never had a "hot" war. They were both afraid of each other because both had nuclear weapons. Neither wanted to fight because they could have both destroyed the other. This is called the fear of mutual destruction or deterrence theory. So instead of having a hot war, the problems between the US and USSR from 1945-1989 were known as the Cold War.

The Cold War (1945-1989)

•USSR wants to spread communism all over world

Refuses to give up its portion of Germany & of Berlin

•Germany becomes 2 countries:

•East Germany-Communist

West Germany-Democratic

•Berlin (Germany's capital) is also split:

•East Berlin-Communist

West Berlin-democratic

Berlin Wall is built by Soviets to keep people from leaving East Berlin

“Iron Curtain” used to describe situation between communist and democratic countries in Europe

•West

•Capitalism

•Democracy

•Western Europe

•U.S. Allies

NATO

•East

•Communism

•Dictators

•Eastern Europe

•Soviet Satellites

Warsaw Pact

America's response to communism was a **M.U.S.T.**

•**M**=Marshall Plan-\$13 billion aid package to Western Europe

Kept Western Europe on side of U.S.

•**U**=U.S. policy of containment

Stopping spread of communism throughout the world

•**S**=Stopping the Domino Theory from occurring

If 1 country becomes communist, then its neighbors will soon follow

•**T**=Truman Doctrine

•U.S. Leads fight against communism

Aids Turkey and Greece to prevent communist governments from forming

Cold War Conflicts

Chinese Civil War (1945-1949)

•Communists vs. Nationalists

•Mao Zedong

Chiang Kai-shek

Supported by USSR

supported by no one

•Results:

•Mao's Communist win, takeover mainland China

•Nationalist lose, takeover island of Taiwan

Both have claimed to be the real China ever since Civil War ended

Korean War (1950-1953)

•North Korea vs. South Korea

•Communist

democratic

Supported by

supported by US

USSR & China

•North and South Korea were split at 38th Parallel

•North Korea invaded South Korea

General MacArthur led UN troops to push North Korean troops out of South Korea

Results:

- War ends in draw

Countries still divided at 38th Parallel today

Vietnam War (1954-1974)

- Vietnam was part of Indochina (French colony)- Vietnamese kicked out France after WWII
- North Vietnam vs. South Vietnam
- Communist weakly democratic
- supported by USSR defended by U.S.

Led by Ho Chi Minh

• Results:

- Many South Vietnamese wanted a unified communist country

- U.S. finally withdrew troops

Vietnam becomes a reunited communist country, still today

Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

- Island of Cuba becomes Communist country led by Fidel Castro
- USSR places nuclear missiles in Cuba pointing at U.S.

• U.S. Response:

- U.S. demanded that missiles be removed

U.S. block Soviet ships from arriving to Cuba

• Results:

USSR turns ships around & eventually removed missiles

Collapse of Communism

The Cold War ended when things got **W.A.R.M.E.R.** in the Soviet Union

- **W**=Warsaw countries became nationalistic and became tired of Soviet domination

Demanded independence from USSR

- **A**=Awful Soviet economy collapsed

USSR could not keep up with US economy

- **R**=Relationships between countries grow stronger

- Indira Gandhi (PM of India)

- creates closer relations with Soviet Union

Develops nuclear program in India

- Margaret Thatcher (PM of Britain)

- Promotes free trade & less gov't regulation of business

- Asserted UK's military power

Creates closer relations with U.S. and their foreign policy

- Deng Xiaoping (Pres. of China)

- Continued Communist control of gov't but...

Reformed communist economy to market economy leading to rapid economic growth

- **M**=Mikhail Gorbachev (last Pres. of Soviet Union)

- Restructured gov't to allow some capitalism in Soviet Union (Perestroika)

Allowed public openness of gov't actions (glasnost)

- E**=Expansion of NATO

Former Warsaw Pact countries begin to join NATO

- R**=Ripping down of Berlin Wall

Symbolizes end of Communism in Eastern Europe and end of Cold War